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## HOW I BUILT AN OPEN FIREPLACE.

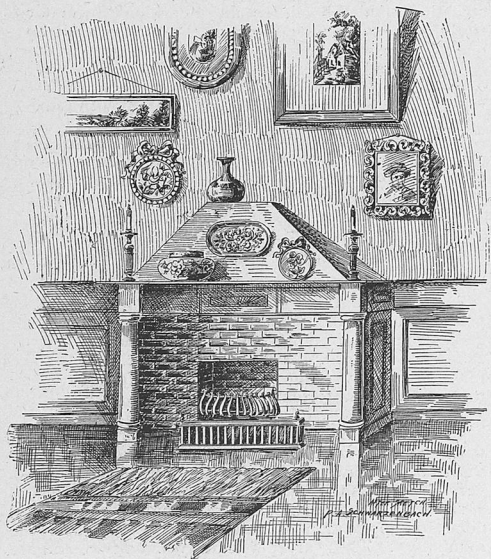
By J. RUDOLPH DYKE.



I HAD been living in my rooms during the summer and had spent much of my time in trying to make my den attractive, but there seemed to be something lacking. When the fall came and the question of putting in something to give heat came before me, with the vision of a great pile of cheerless iron—a stove—I realized it was a fireplace that was lacking. It then came to my memory that for years I had wished for such a thing and had made up my mind that if ever I became rich enough to build a house of my own I should put one in every room, hardly excepting even the bathroom.

But the years are still going by and I have not yet built a house; but I have an open fireplace, and it did not take much riches either.

My salary was not large enough to allow me to hire a man to build me one and, as I was determined not to pass the fast-approaching winter in company with a wretched stove, I stirred my wits and thought hard. After a long siege I hit upon a scheme and went at once to the clerk of the fire department, explained it to him and got a permit to build it on my plan.



THE FIREPLACE, COMPLETED.

This accomplished, I began a tour among the contractors and asked if they had any old mantels taken out of houses they had torn down. After many visits I found one which suited me exactly. A builder had torn down part of an old house wherein was an old fire-

place and had thrown the mantel in his rubbish pile. It was a long, old-fashioned Colonial piece of architecture with a broad opening and the shelf supported by heavy wooden columns. He sold me it for \$3 and was glad to rid himself of it at that price. I, myself, was glad he felt that way, for it was cheaper by twelve dollars than anything at all like it I could have bought new.

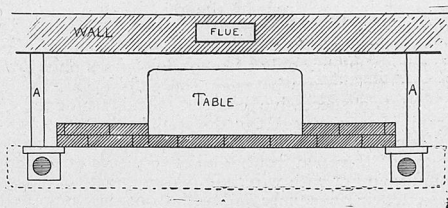


FIGURE 2. PLAN SHOWING MANNER OF LAYING FIRST BRICKS ON EDGE, ON THE FLOOR, OF PLACING TABLE AND MANTEL.

Dotted Line Indicates Mantel Shelf.

AA: Supports to Mantel.

Having that carted to my room, I next went in search of a basket grate. This I bought new at a hardware store for \$3.50; probably I could have found a second-hand one for less money had I looked far enough, but this did not occur to me till it was too late. The grate measured twenty-two inches across the front and was thirteen inches deep, and with these measurements in mind I went to a boiler shop and had them cut me a piece of boiler iron sixteen inches wide by two feet eight inches long. Upon this was to be built the fireplace proper, so that no heat, enough to do any damage, would reach the floor.

I wanted this to stand on legs, so I stopped again in the hardware store and bought four by five-inch wrought iron brackets such as are used for putting up narrow shelving, and four one-inch bolts of the same diameter as the holes in the brackets.

Having bought 200 bricks (fire brick are the best, but I used the ordinary kind), that being about the number I thought the size of my mantel would require, facing and all, I took one, placed it on its long edge, and bent over the short end of a bracket to make the leg long enough to allow the surface of the iron plate resting on it to come even with the upper edge of the brick.

This done I treated the other three in the same manner, and borrowed a drill from a mechanic around the corner. With much labor I then drilled holes, one in each corner of the boiler plate, and bolted on the legs. This gave me the table, on which was to be erected the fireplace, and the most difficult part of the work was done.

I then located the chimney flue and knocked out a hole about four inches one way and the width of the flue the other, with the lower edge about two feet six inches from the floor. I placed the table with its rear edge a couple of inches from the wall, removing the base-board about two feet each side of the proposed centre of the fireplace. My wall happened to be lathed and plastered, so I was obliged, for safety's sake, to pull down about two square yards of this. Most people, however, will be fortunate enough to be able to have their fireplace before a brick wall, and so can save themselves this little extra trouble.

Then, having my table in place on a sheet of zinc as an extra precaution, I set the mantel the thickness of a brick in front of the table and laid a row of bricks on the long edges between the uprights of the mantel

and the front of the table. Having fastened the mantel in its proper position to the wall with wooden supports at each end, I began the construction of the fireplace proper.

I first made the front row double on either side of the table, that the remainder of the brick might be laid flat, and then, placing the basket grate in the middle of the iron table with its front feet at the table's edge, I built up the brick ten courses high around it and at the same time faced up the front of the remaining open part of the mantel.

One may think that bricklaying is a difficult art, but it is not. One has only to keep the courses plumb and not have two spaces between the ends of bricks in a line on two successive courses. And, as for the corners, it is easy enough to "dovetail."

When I had built up the facing as high as I wanted the top of the open front, I laid two pieces of gas pipe bound together with wire, and laid the next course over these, leaving a square hole—the opening before the box-like space in which the grate sits. The top of the box I made two courses higher than the top of the front opening, and covered it with a piece of sheet iron. Of course, when I built up the back wall of the fireplace, I left a hole in it opposite the one I had knocked in the wall, and I now joined the two with a piece of stove-pipe, carefully filling all the cracks with fire clay. I was careful to have the upper part of the front opening lower than the bottom of this hole, and thus be assured of a good draught.

The spaces between the sides of the mantel and the wall behind I hid with curtains instead of bricking them up, so as to be able to get behind if anything should be wrong. But I was not obliged to do so, and the fire burned all winter without giving a bit of trouble.

Now, when I had this all finished, and had laid a few bricks before the grate on the floor for a hearth, and

imitation one could be made of boards, and would greatly relieve the appearance of the top, finishing it off, and would look much better than the broad shelf, which would otherwise be inevitable.

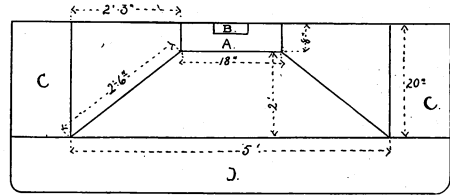


FIGURE 4. TOP ELEVATION OF HOOD.

A: Small Shelf on Top. B: Aperture for Escape of Hot Air. CC & D: Side Shelves and Mantel Shelf. Approximate Dimensions are given.

So with two pieces of board, the width of the mantel shelf, I made a shelf on either end running to the wall, and from these and from the mantel shelf I built up the hood, leaving a small shelf at its top about eighteen inches above its base. In this shelf I cut out a space about 4x3 inches to allow the escape of what heat might otherwise be confined in the hood.

The construction of the hood was the simplest, and did not require much nailing, as no weight whatever excepting its own would be placed upon it, unless it were of some light ornament.

It is impossible to give any measurements for the construction of the hood, as its dimensions depend entirely, of course, upon those of the mantel, but anyone with an ordinary mechanical turn can construct it.

When I had this put together I gave the whole a coat of paint the same color as that of the woodwork of the room, and when dry added a coat of varnish to finish it off.

All the winter I had a fire in the grate, and the comfort I took out of it has repaid me many times for the little trouble I had in making it.

## THE SEASON'S NOVELTIES.

(Continued from page 7.)

Some excellent solid-color effects are found in the new armures, of a moderate price. They are silk face and cotton backs, and have all the appearance of a more expensive material. These come fifty inches wide, and range in price, varying with the quality, from \$1.85, \$2 to \$2.25. Nothing richer can be found in the cheaper grade of goods.

The newest in lace curtains is the Brussels point, with the open-edge pattern. These have never been shown before, and come from \$25 up. Another style, very elegant, is the Marie Antoinette, in which there is a running design of floral sprays and ribbon effects, done by application of braids on the surface of the foundation. These are particularly handsome, and are from \$35 up.

The new wall papers have a quality that perhaps is not known by all housekeepers. They are made in such a way that they can be cleaned easily. After dusting they can be gone over with a damp cloth, without danger of destroying the surface, thereby removing every element of dust and lurking microbes. Paper so prepared to withstand this treatment is printed on the edges "Sanitary."

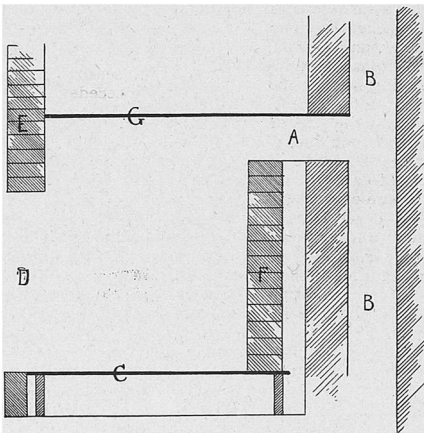


FIGURE 3. SECTION OF FIREPLACE FROM SIDE.

A: Opening to Flue. BB: Chimney Flue. C: Iron Bottom. D: Opening from Front. E: Front Bricks. F: Rear Bricks of Fireplace. G: Iron Top.

held them in place with strips of quarter-inch molding, I concluded I would have an old-fashioned hood above the mantel, such as is often found in old English houses. These, of course, are made of brick, and are a part of the chimney, but it seems to me that an